

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain has an increased binding affinity for EGF and/or TGF- α .

25-26 (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks at least the second to seventh modules of the CR2 domain.

28. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks at least the second to seventh modules of the CR2 domain.

29. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~27~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain further lacks a portion of the first module of the CR2 domain.

30. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 ~~28~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain further lacks a portion of the first module of the CR2 domain.

31. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks residues 514-621.

32. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks residues 514-621.
33. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks residues 502-621.
34. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain lacks residues 502-621.
- 35-38. (Canceled)
39. (Currently amended) ~~A The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 23 wherein the truncated ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain comprises~~ comprising residues 1-501 or residues 1-513 of the ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain.
40. (Canceled)
41. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain has an affinity for EGF such that the K_d is less than 30 nM.
42. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain has an affinity for EGF such that the K_d is less than 30 nM.
43. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain has an affinity for TGF- α such that the K_d is less than 45 nM.
44. (Currently amended) The truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain has an affinity for TGF- α such that the K_d is less than 45 nM.

45. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide encoding a truncated EGFR ectodomain as claimed claim 23.
46. (Withdrawn) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 45.
47. (Withdrawn) A host cell comprising the expression vector as claimed in claim 46.
48. (Currently amended) A chimeric or fusion construct comprising a truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~.
49. (Currently amended) A chimeric or fusion construct comprising a truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 24.
50. (Currently amended) The chimeric or ~~of~~ fusion construct as claimed in claim 48 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain is conjugated to an immunoglobulin constant domain.
51. (Currently amended) The chimeric or ~~of~~ fusion construct as claimed in claim 49 wherein the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain is conjugated to an immunoglobulin constant domain.
52. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a truncated EGFR ectodomain, the method comprising culturing a host cell as claimed in claim 47 under conditions which allow production of the truncated EGFR ectodomain and isolating the truncated EGFR ectodomain.
53. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the truncated ErbB1 ~~EGFR~~ ectodomain as claimed in claim 58 ~~23~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
54. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the chimeric or fusion construct as claimed in claim 48 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

55. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a putative compound for the ability to modulate the activity of the EGF receptor, the method comprising exposing the putative compound to the truncated EGFR ectodomain as claimed in claim 23 and monitoring the activity of the truncated EGFR ectodomain.
56. (Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing a disease associated with signalling by a molecule of the EGF receptor family in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject the truncated EGFR ectodomain as claimed in claim 23.
57. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 56 wherein the disease associated with signalling by a molecule of the EGF receptor family is selected from psoriasis and tumour states comprising but not restricted to cancer of the breast, brain, ovary, cervix, pancreas, lung, head and neck, and melanoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, mesothelioma and glioblastoma.
58. (New) A truncated ErbB1 ectodomain comprising at least residues 1-492 of ErbB1 and lacking at least the third to seventh modules of the ErbB1 CR2 domain such that the truncated ErbB1 ectodomain has an increased binding affinity for at least one ErbB1 ligand when compared to the full length ErbB1 ectodomain.